

Export of Ayurvedic and Unani Drugs

2799. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a tremendous increase in Export of Ayurvedic, Unani and other medicines during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the assistance/support provided or proposed to be provided to the companies manufacturing these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The value of export of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha Medicines/ drugs in indicated below:-

1988-89	Rs. 6.47 crores.
1989-90	Rs. 2.92 crores.
1990-91	Rs. 7.29 crores.
1991-92 (April to January)	Rs. 1.90 crores.

Although many of the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines have export potential, exports of these medicines have not been very significant, particularly due to problems connected with lengthy and cumbersome procedure for registration of drugs laid down by the health authorities of overseas countries. Moreover, the manufacturers of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines do not have the same kind of clinical data to back their products up as is available for Allopathic medicines. Many countries have restrictions on use of this group of medicines because of presence of Metal Oxides in them.

In order to popularise the use of Ayurvedic Medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemicals Pharmaceuticals and cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEX-CIL) Bombay, in association with a renowned Ayurvedic Research centre have prepared a monograph on "Selected Medicinal Plants" for publicity abroad and are undertaking all other usual export promotion measures such as sending promotional team abroad and arranging buyer-seller meets etc. to boost exports from this sector.

Export of Betel Leaves

2800. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps taken to boost the export of betel leaves during the current year and proposed to be taken during 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): Export of betel leaves is freely allowed on decontrolled basis without any export licence formalities. the agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce, assists exporters, *inter-alia* of betel leaves.

Financial Assistance by NABARD to Kerala

2801. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to Kerala by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development from 1988 to 1991, year-wise; and

(b) the rate of interest charged thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Amount of refinance assistance provided in Kerala State by the National